Blue Top Newsletter

Upcoming Meetings and Training

Meeting/Training	Date & Time (EST)	Location	Dial-In Info
CAB	Wed, May 4 9:30 to 12:00	GSA Central Office 1800 F St. NW Room 3042	No telecon provided
User Group	Wed, May 11 9:00 to 12:00	GSA Central Office 1800 F St NW Room 6004	888-455-1864 Passcode: 5887966
Registrar Refresher Training	Thu, May 12 2:30 to 3:30	Telecon/Webinar	888-455-1864 Passcode: 3611044
Registrar Classroom Training	Wed and Thu May 18-19 Jun 15-16 Jul 20-21 Aug 17-18 Sep 21-22	HPE Chantilly, VA	Contact Jim Schoening for information or to Register

Light Credentialing Solution (LCS) workstations must have v4.0 or v4.0.1 installed by May 7 due to infrastructure maintenance; v4.0.1 available

The USAccess team will upgrade the USAccess F5 Edge server on May 7. This was originally scheduled for April 23, but by Agency request, we delayed this update to allow Agencies to update their systems. An email was sent to Agency Leads on Wednesday, April 20 to inform them of the new date.

The F5 Edge server is used by LCS kits to connect to the USAccess service and complete enrollments. The new F5 configuration will allow enrollment connections to use TLS 1.2 protocol. Currently, it only supports TLS 1.0 and TLS 1.1. Once the upgrade work is complete on May 7, all LCS kits will need the new F5 desktop client included in Light Installers v4.0.0 or v4.0.1 in order to complete enrollments.

NOTE: Light Installers v4.0 that was released in early February 2016 includes the new F5 desktop client needed to complete enrollments following the May 7 upgrade. If agencies have already updated their

USAccess Program

Special Points of Note:

Now found on www.fedidcard.gov:

> **Service Order Requests and Test Card Orders**

> **Role Holder Web Based Training Registration**

> **Deployment Activities and USAccess Center Status Alerts**

> **Contact Sharon Meng (Sharon.Meng@gsa.gov) to be added to USAccess distribution lists.**

> **Contact Jim Schoening (jim.schoening@gsa.gov) for Registrar Classroom Training sign up**

Inside this issue:

LCS systems to v4.0, they will continue to work following the F5 upgrade. However, we strongly encourage agencies to upgrade to v4.0.1 even if they are already on v4.0, as 4.0.1 includes fixes to known issues with v4.0, as well as the updated TLS protocol capability.

How to get the updated installers
The Light v4.0.1 installer is posted on the SFTP server. An email was sent on Tuesday, March 29 to Agency Leads announcing the availability of v4.0.1 which includes fixes to several known issues with v4.0. A release notice for v4.0.1 is also posted on the Agency Lead portal. If you cannot remember your login to the SFTP server, please contact the MSO at hspd12@gsa.gov.

USAccess Core Services Acquisition RFP Posted

The MSO is happy to announce that the Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD-12) Core Services Request for Proposal (RFP) was posted to FedBizOpps on April 20, 2016. This RFP is for Core Services, and is a competitive full and open acquisition. The objective is to acquire a solution that will provide the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA) HSPD-12 MSO USAccess Program uninterrupted, Government-wide contractor managed services for identity and credential management services. We plan to continue to provide updates as the procurement progresses.

The RFP can be found at: https://www.fbo.gov/notices/bfebdbeba63707d842466475ff1b4461

New Platform and URL for Refresher Training Web Conference

Starting on May 12, the MSO will start using Adobe Connect as the platform used to present Registrar and Activator Refresher Training. This change results in a new URL to access the web conference. The old URL will no longer be valid after the May training. Agency Leads should notify their Registrars and Activators of the new URL, provided below. As always, the presentation slides will be posted to TRACKS and the ALP prior to the training for those who choose to follow along offline.

New URL for Refresher Training: https://meet.gsa.gov/r1njwttxf41/

Adobe Connect is the same platform used successfully for the recent PCA and Sponsor Training sessions. Our findings have shown a higher success rate of connecting to a web conference using Adobe Connect than the previous platform.

An added benefit of using Adobe Connect is that the recordings of the Refresher Trainings can be viewed online. Links to the Registrar Refresher Training recordings will be posted on TRACKS, enabling Registrars and Activators to access the training directly. Previously, the recording files were too large to post to TRACKS. The April Refresher Training recording link has already been posted to TRACKS and the ALP.

Role Holders can test connectivity to Adobe Connect using the following link:
https://meet.gsa.gov/common/help/en/support/meeting_test.htm

Service Enhancements

Changes/updates since last Blue Top

- Completed maintenance for SIP Web Service Migration for DOE, DOI
- Updated Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) Zone 4B Return Address

Planned changes

For any maintenance downtime periods, please schedule some buffer time to resume enrollment and activation appointments to account for any unanticipated delays in service.

- **TODAY, April 28 from 7pm to 8:30pm.** We've scheduled maintenance on the interface that sends biometric packages from USAccess to OPM tonight. This work involves temporarily taking the workflow engine (TIBCO) offline which is what moves Applicants through the system and sends system generated emails. During this maintenance period, role holders may see a slight delay in emails being sent or actions being reflected in the system. No data is at risk for being lost. Once maintenance is complete, system emails and workflow actions will resume as normal and be reflected in the system. This work DOES NOT impact enrollments or activations.
- **April 30.** Routine maintenance is scheduled for this Saturday and the USAccess service and portals will be unavailable for most of the day.
- **May 7.** Maintenance is scheduled for Saturday, May 7 to update the F5 server. See the previous article on the impact for LCS kits due to this change. The USAccess service and portals will be unavailable for most of the day.

Security Tip

Securing Light Solutions

Agencies are reminded to take action on their Light Credentialing and Light Activation stations to ensure they are updated with the latest Windows updates and patches, and Antivirus definitions. Since the Agencies own these stations, the MSO and HP do not release Windows operating systems updates or antivirus updates for the Light stations. It is each Agency's responsibility to ensure Operating System patches and Antivirus software are kept up to date on all Light stations.

Explore the Government Acquisition Gateway Yet?

The Acquisition Gateway, otherwise known as the Common Acquisition Platform (CAP) and built by GSA, helps federal government buyers from all agencies act as one acquisition community. The Acquisition Gateway features information on government-wide contract vehicle comparisons, acquisition best practices, market research tools, prices paid data, and other useful tools and features. Federal employees with a PIV card or approved contractors can access the site. Sign up at https://hallways.cap.gsa.gov